ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a decoding apparatus
and method, a program storage medium, and a program, which
allow high-performance decoding of a modulation code encoded

5   in accordance with a variable-length table. A 17PP-SISO
decoder 181 performs SISO decoding on a signal supplied from
a PR-SISO decoder 81 by using a Viterbi decoding algorithm
or a BCJR decoding algorithm in accordance with a trellis
represented by paths corresponding, in a one-to-one fashion,

10   to overall transitions in an entire encoding process in
accordance with an encoding table 201 of a 17PP code. A
resultant SISO-decoded signal is supplied to a turbo decoder
84 via a deinterleaver 83. The turbo decoder 84 performs
turbo decoding on the signal output from the 17PP-SISO

15   decoder 181. The present invention can be applied to a
recording/reproducing apparatus for recording/reproducing a
signal on/from a storage medium such as a high-density
optical disk.